

## 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

### Record of the Meeting



#### 1. Attendance

This is listed at Annex 1 to the Record.

#### 2. Opening remarks

Mr. Peter Lina (Chair) opened the Meeting. He welcomed the participants and invited the representative of the host country (Cyprus) to make opening remarks.

The Head of the Nature Team of the Environment Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of Cyprus, Ms. Christina Pantazi, welcomed the participants on behalf of the Ministry and wished everyone a pleasant stay. She highlighted the richness of the bat fauna of Cyprus, being the only EU member country having the Egyptian fruit bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*). She also mentioned that, even though Cyprus was not yet a Party to EUROBATS, all 22 known bat species in Cyprus are legally protected at all times. Furthermore, some areas were included in the “Natura 2000” Network because of the presence of bats and therefore Cyprus was obliged, according to the EU Habitats Directive and the national legislation, to monitor and take all the necessary measures to protect these species. Finally, Ms. Pantazi expressed the government’s intention to join EUROBATS in the next year and wished for a fruitful cooperation with the other countries for a common purpose: the protection of bats.

The Commissioner for the Environment, Mr. Charalampos Theopemptou, welcomed the EUROBATS meeting in Cyprus and mentioned that this event was a great honour for Cyprus. Also, he noted how useful bats were for the environment and stressed the need for their protection. He referred to *Rousettus aegyptiacus* and to the fact that, in the past, the fruit bat was strongly persecuted. In his conclusion, Mr. Theopemptou mentioned that Cyprus will certainly gain knowledge and experience through the Meeting’s experts and expressed his reassurance that this Meeting will be the beginning of cooperation for the best conservation of bats in Cyprus.

Ms. Maro Kazepi, representing the Cyprus Tourism Organisation, highlighted her country’s efforts in promoting sustainable eco- and agro-tourism in rural areas that

through the restoration of traditional houses and villages was a significant contribution to the maintenance of the rich cultural heritage of Cyprus.

The honourable Member of Parliament, Mr. George Perdikes, also expressed his gratitude that the Meeting of the Advisory Committee was taking place in Cyprus. He emphasised the strong commitment of the country to improve nature and species conservation in general and enhance bat conservation in particular. He wished the Meeting every possible success.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their kind and encouraging words of welcome and commended them for their impressive efforts in improving nature and species conservation. He also thanked the Environment Service for having organised a beautiful excursion to the Trodoos mountain nature reserve the previous day.

The Chair of Advisory Committee read the statement of the Chair of the Standing Committee, Michel Perret (France), who expressed his conviction that the work done inside the Advisory Committee and its Working Groups was crucial for EUROBATS and that its quality was highly acknowledged at each Standing Committee Meeting. The concrete results were used daily in the EUROBATS Agreement area and really improved the conservation of bats by providing high quality standards for bat protection in Europe. He furthermore highlighted that the Year of the Bat in 2011 would be an exceptional opportunity to raise public awareness and to promote bat conservation. He also wished for a very fruitful Meeting of the Advisory Committee.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS, Mr. Andreas Streit, read an opening statement of Mr. Robert Hepworth, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (UNEP/CMS) who commended the Advisory Committee for its continuing provision of new scientific information on bats and their conservation needs, thus enabling the Convention to contribute to the protection of these remarkable migratory mammals. He also appreciated the presence of representatives from Greece and Turkey, making this meeting of bat experts another small step in the bridge-building process between different communities. He wished all delegates a successful meeting.

The Executive Secretary of UNEP/EUROBATS thanked the representatives of the host country for their kind hospitality. He also thanked the government of Germany for an earmarked contribution to cover the costs relating to the participation of representatives from Southern Mediterranean countries. The Executive Secretary highlighted the fact that seven countries were represented for the first time. He then informed the Meeting

that the accession of the Republic of San Marino to the Agreement had entered into force just two days before and invited the delegate to take his new seat among the Parties.

### **3. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

### **4. Adoption of the Rules of Procedure**

The Rules of Procedure were adopted by consensus and all observers were admitted to the Meeting.

### **5. Reports from Parties, Non-Party Range States as well as NGO's**

According to the Ordinance on Proclamation of Wild Taxa as Protected and Strictly Protected (OG 7/06) from 2006, 34 bat species are strictly protected in **Croatia**. *Myotis alcathoe* has since then been confirmed as resident species and will be added to the list of strictly protected species in the new Ordinance which will come into force in June 2009.

Bat conservation action plans were included in the new Strategy and Action Plan for the Protection of Biological and Landscape Diversity of the Republic of Croatia from 2008, especially in regards to forest management and wind farms.

According to the Regulation on Proclamation of the Ecological Network (OG 109/07), in 2007 national ecological network was proclaimed on 47% of land and 39% of sea territory. It includes 28 sites for which bats are the conservation objective, so guidelines for protection measures aimed at maintaining or establishing a favourable conservation status are proscribed. All speleological objects also represent an integral part of the ecological network.

Croatia is in the process of defining the NATURA 2000 Proposal, and currently there are 42 proposed Sites of Community Importance (*pSCI*) designated for bats.

In the preparation of Ecological Network and NATURA 2000 Proposal, the research, inventory and monitoring of bats as key species has been carried out more extensively than before. State Institute for Nature Protection is publishing manuals for inventorying and monitoring the status of species and habitats in Croatia, and in 2008 the chapter on bats was published, containing a description of the data collection methodology, description of selected bat species and field forms for recording the data.

The Ministry of Culture, Nature Protection Directorate distributed the “Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects” to agencies, companies and bat experts involved in the planning and environmental impact assessment of wind farms.

European Bat Night 2007 and 2008 events were successfully organised in few locations in Croatia and received good media coverage. Additionally, State Institute, bat NGOs and experts organised events, workshops and educational lectures on bats, published posters, publications and leaflets to raise awareness on bat conservation issues.

So far, 26 bat species have been recorded in the **Czech Republic**. The new species reported since the last report is *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, which was found in South Moravia. Also, breeding was confirmed in the newly recognized species *M. alcaethoe* and its occurrence was proved in more areas of the country.

In the last two years, insulating prefabricated house blocks occurred on a large scale, and the influence on several species (mainly noctule and pipistrelle bats) is critical. Those species used air-ducts holes and crevices between panels, above the windows for both maternity colonies and hibernation. Fortunately, a common grant with Slovak Bat Trust and Coordination Centre for Bat Conservation in Thuringia was agreed.

Monitoring programs are well developed and the number of new bat localities increased. Monitoring in hibernacula covers more than 700 sites, the method and timing (mid January -mid-February) follows the concept established and performed since 1969. The data are available from central database.

Monitoring of maternity colonies of pSCI species, with special emphasis on monitoring of nursery colonies of NATURA 2000 species. Recent census covers 120 localities. Monitoring of bat population in feeding grounds with aid of bat-detectors on regular transects in 10 localities in protected areas. Monitoring of bat population at swarming sites was carried out by mist-netting (actually undertaken at 9 localities at May, July and September term on each). Within the last years, the European Bat Night has become an important public awareness event in the country. The total number of participants reached more than 2,600.

Extensive scientific research concerning bats is traditionally performed at three universities, Academy of Science, and National Museum Prague. Among the projects worth mentioning is a recent one on research of systematics, biogeography and biology of bats in Mediterranean and the Middle East.

Recent and ongoing programmes:

- a) The database of ringed bats (about 100,000 items) was completed, updated and presented in an online form at the web page of CESON
- b) the web pages of CESON ([www.ceson.org](http://www.ceson.org)) were up-dated, including the help-line with house insulation and handicapped bats
- c) a new brochure deals with recommendation on reducing conflicts between bats and wind farms was published
- d) a new brochure about protection of bats and swifts in blocks of flats was published
- e) finalisation of manual of care and treatment of accepted, handicapped and injured bats together with cooperation of vets
- f) finalisation of a book “Bat Research and Bat Protection in the Czech Republic”; it will be available at EUROBATs meeting in Prague in 2010.
- g) finalisation of a film “The Bat Is Behind Door”; it will be available at EUROBATs meeting in Prague in 2010.

A new unit under the Ministry of Environment of **Estonia** has been formed – Environmental Board, which has taken over the former tasks of State Nature Protection Centre. Seminars in order to renew the bat conservation action plan for Estonia are planned in near future. Reorganisation of the official database EELIS in order to better include the monitoring data is still in the progress. The amount of local bat workers as also the international cooperation with other range states by the experts is slowly increasing. Volunteer network is still insufficient and extensive capacity building is needed.

During the last reporting period the following can be emphasised: project involving surveys in old parks around manor houses as an important habitat for bats across the whole country has been carried out; complete geological and topographical survey plus a risk assessment of an important hibernation site near Tallinn was carried out, which will improve possibilities of planning bat protection in similar underground hibernacula; a special session was dedicated to research on bats in the Baltic Theriological Conference, held in Lëpanina, Estonia, in October 2008, which was an important step for bat researchers of the Baltic countries.

**Finland** highlighted few points from the update to the national implementation report. A new species has been reported in Finland. This is *Eptesicus serotinus*. An individual found in March 2008 in southernmost Finland was unfortunately later found dead. The serotine is the 13<sup>th</sup> bat species in Finland and it might occur as a vagrant species in the

Southern parts of the country. A bat migration study was started in 2008. Passive monitoring on coastal and island sites is used in Southern and South-Western Finland. The preliminary results were promising. For example Nathusius' pipistrelle seemed to be more common than previously known. The pilot phase of the study was presented as a poster in the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Bat Migration, in Berlin 2009. The project will be continued in 2009 and hopefully for years to come. In the national report an annex with recent literature was included. The number of articles and survey reports highlights that bat work has become more common in recent years. This helps bat conservation as survey results can be used to take bats into consideration in land use planning.

**France** reported that a 34<sup>th</sup> species has been added to the French bat list (*Myotis escaleraei*).

A new Red List has been established according to the last IUCN regional criteria. One species is "critically endangered", 3 are "vulnerable", and seven are "near threatened". More over 4 species were "data deficient" and one was not evaluated.

The closing of mines has brought about the problem of reconciling public security needs with the conservation of protected animal species, in particular bats. The 1991 Decree that leads to bat habitat destruction is under reconsideration.

The guidelines for windfarm installations are currently being updated.

The SETRA (technical service for roads and infrastructures) prepared a bibliographical synthesis on bats and roads. This text, available on the internet, focuses on the impacts of roads on bats and the mitigation measures for these species.

The Nature Life Project successfully contributed to the conservation of *Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii* in a network of 26 roosts, located in 13 Sites of Community Importance: physical protection of 12 roosts, management agreement for 11 roosts, study of the diet and habitat use for providing guidelines for the management of foraging areas, communication (exhibitions, film).

The "European Bat Night" was organised in each of the 22 regions of metropolitan France and in New-Caledonia with a total of 135 activities, a number that has never been reached before.

An executive secretary has been appointed to facilitate the implementation of the second national bat action plan. The objectives and actions of this plan were

synthesised in a leaflet that will be widely distributed (10,000 copies). This national plan will be the framework of regional plans to be funded by local and regional authorities.

In appliance of Directive 98/8/EC concerning the release onto the market of biocide products, the Ministry in charge of environment issues has established a list of substances which summarise the implementation of European regulations and is available on the internet. The whole regulation concerning the policy supervising the use of biocides is available on the internet, as well as other related information: In appliance of Directive 98/8/EC concerning the release onto the market of biocide products, the Ministry in charge of environment issues (Direction générale de la prévention des risques, bureau des substances et préparations chimiques) has established a list of substances (TP8 in the table found at this address: <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/Suivi-du-programme-d-examen-des.html>) which summarises the implementation of European regulations (see Annex 2). Active substances that are not listed are forbidden since 1 September 2006, those in red are forbidden from the date indicated in column J. The guide can be downloaded at the following address: <http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/Guide-a-l-intention-des.html>. The whole regulation concerning the policy supervising the use of biocides is available at the following address, as well as other related information: [http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/rubrique.php3?id\\_rubrique=760](http://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=760).

The main actions of the **French mammal society (SFEPM)** since AC13 were the following:

#### 1) Action Plan

The Chiroptera group of the French mammal society (SFEPM) has drafted the National Action Plan for Chiroptera (2008-2012). It has been validated by the different ministries and the regional bat groups are now in the phase of implementation via Regional Action Plans (PRACs). These Regional plans should take account both of the aims of the National Action Plan and the regional needs for bat conservation.

#### 2) Old mines

In some regions the closing of old mines was programmed for 2009 without taking into consideration proper means to conserve important bat roosts. Some of these roosts were identified as Natura 2000 sites. For more than a year we have been trying to have a meeting with the 2 ministries concerned (industry and ecology) without obtaining a positive reply. Therefore the SFEPM took the case to the European Commission and an enquiry is ongoing.

### 3) Wind energy

- The Ministry is preparing new guidelines for the EIA of wind farms and we have taken part in the Working group for the draft.
- In parallel we are working with the Biodiversity group of the French wind industry (SER-FEE) to try and achieve detailed and standard methods for the impact assessment and monitoring of wind farms that could be acceptable for both parties.
- We participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> Symposium on Bat Migration with a joint presentation with our colleagues Lothar Bach and Luisa Rodrigues on the mortality of migrating and resident bats in Europe.

### 4) Pan-European Project

22 out of 23 bat groups have agreed to participate to the Pan-European Monitoring of Bats in underground sites

### 5) European Bat Night

In 2008, 135 events were organised all over France and New Caledonia.

**Georgia** reported that in 2006-2008 the Field Researchers' Union - Campester (*Georgia* - *Bukhnikashvili A., Kandaurov A., Natradze I.*) with the financial support of Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) implemented the Project – „Development and Capacity Building of Transboundary Bats Monitoring Network in the Caucasus“. The partners to the project were Centre for Biological Diversity (*Azerbaijan – Rakhmatulina I.*), Union of Armenian Nature Protectors (*Armenia – Yavruyan E.*) and Institute of Mountain Ecology of the Kabardino-Balkarian Scientific Centre of Academy of Sciences of Russia (*Russia – Gazaryan S.*).

The main project deliverables are:

- The Bats Regional Monitoring Network established, capacity built and functioning;
- Key basic data on the priority bats species and habitats obtained and species database developed;
- Re-evaluation of national status and evaluation of the regional status for 14 key bats species according to IUCN criteria;
- A key habitat database for globally threatened bats species in the region developed;
- Five Conservation Action Plans developed and published;
- Five scientific articles prepared and published;
- Protection of three caves, as the key bats habitats, justified and initiated.

In autumn 2008, the project “Mitigation measures for impact on bats species in Baku-Tbilisi-Ceihan pipeline influence zone (Pilot project in Tertitskaro district)” was carried out. In the frame of this project six kinds of 50 special bats boxes have been purchased and placed which was the first case and opportunity in the Caucasus.

**Germany** highlighted the CBD COP9 which took place in Bonn in May 2008 with about 5,000 participants. For bats and nature conservation the COP9 catalyzed *inter alia*:

- A considerable increase of public interest for species conservation and
- 500 Million € additional support until 2011 granted by the German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Within the Ministry for the Environment (BMU) the creation of a new division “Forestry and Climate Change” in autumn 2008 appeared as helpful for bat conservation. Together with CMS and EUROBATS the German government invited Russia for two high-level meetings in Bonn in order to promote the Russian accession to CMS and its Agreements.

Further on Germany mentioned three ongoing projects in bat conservation: The implementation of a national bat monitoring programme in accordance with the reporting demands under the EU Habitat Directive, the assessment of the conservation status of bat species for the new Red List of threatened vertebrates to be published in 2009, and a new international initiative to improve conservation efforts for bats, in particular *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, in the federal land of Thuringia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

A month ago **NABU** has held its bi-annual national bat conference in Mayen, where an important bat hibernaculum is situated (up to 30,000 bats), fortunately now legally protected with funding from the Federal Government and NABU. At the conference a lot of new information on bat research has been presented, thanks to the intensive voluntary work of the NABU members. Some of the new results include research on the occurrence of cryptic or rare species such as *M. alcathoe*, which has been found recently to occur throughout Germany. New findings of *H. savii* were made in southern Germany, as well of *P. kuhlii*, which is now established as a member of the German bat fauna with several maternity colonies in southern Germany. *R. ferrumequinum* has recently increasing range and population density in southwestern Germany (Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate), also thanks to efficient protection measures of colonies in the neighboring countries Luxembourg and Lorraine (France).

The national monitoring programme for *M. myotis* has been successfully conducted during the last year, again involving a large number of voluntary bat workers.

As done in every year, several very successful events have been organized for the European Bat Night.

Unfortunately no success can be reported on solving the problem about bat friendly forest management. Too many old trees are still removed from German forest, thus steadily reducing habitats and roost possibilities for tree-dwelling species such as *M. bechsteinii* and *B. barbastellus*.

**Ireland:** The Irish Bat Monitoring Programme collects trend data for six of Ireland's ten bat species using a combination of professionals and volunteers. Roost counts are used for monitoring *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and *Plecotus auritus*. The Car Transect scheme collects data for 3 widespread species - *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, *P. pygmaeus* and *Nyctalus leisleri*. (Data from 2005-2007 showed *P. nathusii* expanding its range across Ireland, although 2008 data suggests the species has become less widespread again.) The Waterways Survey is showing *Myotis daubentonii* to be extremely widespread. Over 250 volunteers have taken part in this scheme to date, making this one of the most successful volunteer based wildlife surveys ever undertaken in Ireland.

The monitoring schemes are backed up by the BATLAS 2010 project which aims to systematically map the current distribution of Ireland's nine species of vesper bats by 2010. 259 10 km squares were surveyed in 2008. The National Parks and Wildlife Service works closely with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and Bat Conservation Ireland on these schemes.

Meanwhile, novel monitoring methods for *Myotis nattereri*, *M. brandtii* and *M. mystacinus* are being explored by the Centre for Irish Bat Research. This centre is also examining bat swarming activity and feeding behaviour of *Myotis* spp. and using genetic analyses to help answer taxonomic and phylogeographical questions.

In December 2008 **Italy** hosted the Ninth Conference of Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species. It was a major event – 110 Countries are part to the Convention – held on the FAO premises in Rome. It was also the occasion to talk of EUROBATS and bat conservation: there was an interesting side event on bat conservation in Africa organized by EUROBATS, and another led by the Italian Ministry of Environment in which much space was devoted to present the action taken by Italy to preserve bat populations.

During the Meeting, the Italian Environment Ministry and Rome City Council signed an agreement to create a modern experimental centre for bat rehabilitation in the heart of Rome. It is now hoped that this challenging project will soon become reality. The Ministry also sponsored a successful research project to assess survival and habitat selection in rehabilitated bats after release.

In **Luxembourg**, the new law of nature conservation stipulates action plans for different species. The only mammal action plans are for first stage foreseen for *Barbastella barbastellus*, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Myotis emarginatus*.

In 2009, a monitoring program for ecosystems plans and animals is elaborated and on course to be finished. Bats are one of the main issues in this program.

In 2008 and beginning of 2009, all known colonies of *Myotis myotis* in Luxembourg have been monitored. The “Station Biologique de l’Ouest” monitors, 17 roosting colonies in the Western part of Luxembourg every year.

The project „Opening lofts and attics of churches“ (“Action Combles & Clochers”) has been carried out now on 72 churches, other openings are foreseen for the next months. The presence and acceptance of the protection measures are controlled by plastic sheets on the floor (“zones témoins”).

The competent authorities and ARCELOR\_MITTAL have successfully completed the first stage of a project that foresees preservation of most of the 150 old mining entrances for bats in the south of the country. In 2008, 12 entrances have been definitively secured for bats with a system of iron fences and cement tubes.

A meeting with the competent authority in the Ministry of Environment (together with the national Energy Agencies) has been held in order to identify guidelines and no-go-areas for imminent construction of wind turbines in Luxembourg. It has been decided that bat-workers will be involved at an early stage in the decision process.

Research:

- A Transboundary co-operation between France, Germany and Belgium with bat-workers and a French veterinary laboratory (AFFSS), is collecting active samples of *Myotis daubentonii* and *Eptesicus serotinus* in order to identify the situation of EBLV1 and EBLV2 Rabies on Bats in these countries.
- A project of survey about forest bats in Luxembourg covering the period of 2005-2010 is still in progress.

- A PhD about the social structure and habitat use of *Myotis bechsteinii* is in the second year.

During the last year in the Republic of **Moldova** different legal steps were taken to implement the EUROBATS Agreement. The National Programme for the creation of the National Ecological Network was formulated and is planned to be approved by the government until this year.

The objective of this Programme is to improve protection, to reconstruct a system of integrated landscapes and other habitats, which need to be protected to avoid negative influence of human activity in on bats.

A new project "Improving coverage and management effectiveness of the Protected Area System in Moldova", financially supported by the GEF, will start before end of May. One of the outcomes of the project is create a new National Park that integrates existing fragments of different protected areas, especially protected sites important for the conservation of bats.

Another high important project in bat protection and biodiversity conservation started in Moldova in April this year is "Support in development of the Emerald Network" of the Council of Europe for the creation of a European network of natural areas (Emerald), as part of the NATURA 2000. This aims to protect areas with high natural value, due to the presence of habitats and species of conservation interest.

Regarding the increasing the public awareness of the importance of protection of nature in general and bats in particular, the monograph "Animal world" was published that include detailed descriptions of all bats species in our country. This information was distributed in all school and public libraries.

The Dutch Society for the Study and Conservation of Mammals (VZZ) reported recent developments in **the Netherlands**: In 2008, the international project of Romania, Bulgaria and the Netherlands was finalised, producing two guidelines on bats and impact assessment guidelines. The Bulgarian guideline was written by Dr. Petrov, the Romanian one by Csaba Jere, Abigail Szodoray-Paradi and Farkas Szodoray-Paradi. The work was carried out by the Bulgarian National Museum of Natural History, Romanian Bat Association, the national governments of involved countries and the Society for the Study and Conservation of Mammals. We are very happy to report that both national governments support the produced guidelines.

Also in the Netherlands, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, consultancies and the Society formulated guidelines on impact assessment. These guidelines give the minimal survey effort required. A number of active members of the Society formulated guidelines for capturing and handling bats, guidelines and a related course on methodology in theory and practice. These guidelines are voluntary, and not yet adopted by the government. Researchers and members that want to make use of the Society's "catch and handle" permit are required to follow the guidelines, must work according to the guidelines and must hand in a project plan.

The Society has given courses in bat sound analyses and bat surveying. The Society and Peter Lina (for the Reference Centre for Pest Control) have both given courses on bats and impact assessments, the former aimed at civil servants and consultants, the latter aimed at civil servants, pest control officers and foresters.

The Dutch Bat workgroup has organised the national bat workers conference, Bat Night, and produced several newsletters. All registered bat workers and Workgroup members receive EUROBATs publications.

The passive active monitoring of rabies and the autecological study on pond bats is ongoing.

A number of Natura 2000 sites were adapted to include underground part of marl mines, important hibernacula for *Myotis myotis*, *M. emarginatus* and *M. dasycneme*. Management plans for the sites are currently being written.

Hibernacula monitoring commissioned by the Natura Data Authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, is ongoing – thanks to many volunteers and local bats groups. We asked our volunteers to be vigilant for White Nose Syndrome-like fungi. One case of white nose like fungus was reported, but unfortunately the fungus on this animal was not sampled. Outside of the monitoring period, AJ Haarsma of Leiden University found a dead animal with fungus. This animal is currently being analysed.

All parties (local bat groups, the Nature Data Authority and the Society) are supporting and are willing to participate in the project for Pan European Monitoring of Underground Sites.

An attic monitoring scheme, commissioned by the government, focussing on *Plecotus auritus* and *Myotis emarginatus* was started in 2008. This scheme profited greatly from the experience of a number of volunteers already monitoring attics over 10 years.

The province of Limburg funded a study of the Society and NJN (Youth Society for Nature Studies), on swarming at limestone mines: 6 quarries, August to mid October: 1,434 individuals, 13 species (of which a few very rare ones). Different species showed different peaks. During the season, composition converged to composition in winter. The results of the study will be implemented through Natura 2000 management plans.

In **Norway**, the main achievement since the last AC meeting has been the completion of a draft management plan for bats, which has been written by the Norwegian Zoological Society and currently is with the Directorate for Nature Management for review and final production. The Society also produced a special issue of its journal "Fauna", finally available in January 2009, comprising 216 pages on bats and bat work in Norway. It has been distributed to the EUROBATS' network of focal points and NGO contacts, as well as to regional wildlife managers and other relevant institutions in Norway. In the field, preservation of the wintering site for *Barbastella barbastellus* that was discovered in January 2008 was secured, with grills installed at both entrances in the autumn. A subsequent winter visit confirmed that the species was again present, although still only a single individual. Searches for barbastelle in surrounding areas during summer have so far been unsuccessful, but will continue. Other activities have also been continued, including but not limited to monitoring of bats in selected underground hibernacula, a small scale point- and line transect survey with detectors during summer, bat nights, and the operation of a bat care center which frequently leads to media interest.

**Poland:** Last winter a temporary national guideline for consideration of bats in environmental impact assessment of wind farm projects was developed by the coalition of NGOs – Polish Agreement for Bats Protection. This document is based on the EUROBATS Guidelines. It was recommended for use in 2009 by the State Council of Nature Conservation.

The Polish Government systematically extends the official Natura 2000 network proposal. In 2008 regional expert teams were working to develop projects of sites, filling still existing knowledge gaps for numerous species and natural habitat. The list of new proposed sites was put for public consultation in the first week of May 2009. It contains also some new sites for bats. In the upcoming weeks NGOs and scientists will analyse this list and check if the extended network is already sufficient for bat species.

**Portugal:** There has been an increasing of data collection, done by several universities, speleologists and field technicians.

In order to attract a maternity colony of around 150 *Rhinolophus hipposideros* which had a conflict in a Historical Building, an alternative roost for was created. The new roost was colonised and the bats breed there.

A website about bats was created. It includes online images collected in a maternity roost by four infrared cameras and videos. Visitors may ask questions, which are answered by specialists.

A blog about bats was created. It intends to be a way of dissemination and raising awareness about these mammals and it includes the divulgation of past and ongoing projects, news, activities and technical reviews.

A guidance manual for the analysis of new infrastructures (roads, railway lines and canals) projects was prepared. The manual gathers referenced information on impacts, minimisation measures, compensation and monitoring of natural values including bats.

An informative guide for the general public regarding cohabitation with bats and giving advice on bat exclusion was prepared.

**Slovak Republic:** The number of species recorded in Slovakia rose to 28 – *Hypsugo savii* and *Pipistrellus kuhlii* were recorded in last years.

Four recent threats became more serious – killing of bats and loss of roosts by insulation of blocks of flats, reconstruction works and loss of roosts in sacred buildings, and massive use of pesticides and harvesting in forests. Insulation of buildings is now more financially supported from government and builders usually do not take bats into consideration. Sacred buildings are repaired in larger numbers and often the lofts are closed for bats. Due to the numerous windthrows since 2004, that damaged large areas of spruce forest in Slovakia, pesticides are more commonly used also in protected areas and massive harvesting and clear cuts are very common.

An education and conservation project – “Support of cooperation in European bat conservation” started, in cooperation with Czech and German colleagues, supported by Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt. The project is aimed in Slovakia on increasing capacity for bat conservation and on education of builders – how to reconstruct buildings without damage to bats. Another project for the conservation of the Dubnicke bane hibernacula, supported by grants from Norway started. The State Nature Conservancy is also preparing a project for broader monitoring of mammals including bats.

**Slovenia:** Bat related activities can be summarised into three main groups:

a) Research & population monitoring

- The Centre for Cartography of Fauna and Flora (CKFF) is conducting a two year bat monitoring programme (2008-2009) financed by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, which is taking into account c. 40 hibernacula, c. 130 maternity roosts, c. 20 detector line transects and c. 20 mistnetting sites.
- CKFF and The National Veterinary Institute carried out active surveillance of possible lyssaviruses in bats ordered by Veterinary Administration of the Republic of Slovenia. In 2008 c. 250 specimens of bats (especially *E. serotinus* and *M. daubentonii*) were tested and so far no lyssaviruses were found. Intensive testing will continue in 2009.
- SDPVN – The Slovenian Association for Bat Research and Conservation was successful in obtaining a small grant from the capital city to research bats potentially inhabiting trees in city parks.
- A diploma thesis on roost requirement and other ecological aspect of *Nyctalus noctula* was completed in 2009 (Department of Biology, Biotechnical faculty of University of Ljubljana).

b) Public relation events

Again we can report a very successful European bat night, and wide array of other public relations events. Potentially very important was the presentation of EUROBATs guidelines on wind turbines in the Second house of the Slovenian Parliament.

c) International cooperation

In the reporting period, the traditionally good cooperation with all colleagues from former Yugoslavia republics, was especially intensive with bat researchers of Montenegro and Croatia.

**Sweden:** There are still basic inventory surveys going on all over the country – the northern half of the country is still not properly surveyed and will not be for yet some years to come. Even so, Sweden is now planning for an atlas of the south third of the country to be published within a year or two.

In the middle of Sweden, in the counties of Jämtland and Västernorrland, recent findings show that some species are actually occurring at far more northerly latitudes than formerly was the case. These are possibly the most northerly occurrences so far for *Myotis daubentonii*, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and *Pipistrellus nathusii*. The two latter are not scientifically confirmed as of yet.

A pilot project on active surveillance of lyssavirus was carried out last summer without any positive cases found. Another survey with active surveillance will be carried out this year in July.

Passive monitoring with bat detectors have proved very effective in establishing all species present within a particular area.

A *Barbastella barbastellus* was found in early spring this year, hibernating in a former military bunker (about to be destroyed) just outside Stockholm. This is the most northerly finding in the country and also far north of other specimens of its kind so far. The barbastelle was hibernating together with seven other species in the same location, among them *Myotis nattereri* which is fairly rare in Sweden. Following this, the Swedish Armed Forces have decided that from now on they will adapt all their underground and semi underground sites to better suit bats – even if they are no longer in use.

Educational seminars for county administration boards and related companies are presently being held all over the country on the Species Protection Act, where the protection of bats plays an important part.

**Ukraine** reported that the geography of faunistic bat investigations is extending. A few direct research programmes in different regions of Ukraine have added good information concerning the distribution and status of bats.

In 2008, a large region in Southern Ukraine, being rich of underground cavities, was surveyed on the presence of possible bat sites (with financial support of the Direction des Eaux et Forêts of Luxembourg and the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany through the EUROBATS Secretariat). The surveillance resulted in the findings of several new key underground bat sites.

The first large systematic programme on awareness of bats in Eastern Ukraine (financially supported by BCI's Global Grassroots Conservation Fund) was finalised at the end of 2008. In the framework of this project three colourful posters, two leaflets and many pocket calendars had been produced and distributed. Lectures in schools were also given.

A few new projects and initiatives have started. Among them there is one (supported by MEEDDAT, DEFRA and the EUROBATS Secretariat in the framework of EPI) which aims to improve bat conservation in Ukraine in relation to rabies through the development of collaboration between bat workers and public health authorities with a

workshop “Bats and man: conservation and epidemiological aspects” being a central point of the project.

A Law of Ukraine No. 1007-VI “On adoption of an amendment to the Agreement on the Conservation of Populations of European Bats” (which covers amendments of the resolutions 3.7, 4.8 and 5.3) was adopted by the Ukrainian Parliament on 2 February 2009.

**United Kingdom:** The majority of activities for the previous year were included in the updated National Report for the UK, but some additional information was provided to the meeting. A two-year post doctoral research project had recently commenced in Scotland, assessing the impact of micro turbines on bats and birds. Guidelines entitled ‘Bats in Traditional Buildings’ had recently been published in England and were available at [www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/bats\\_accessible\\_20090429095157.pdf?1241182939](http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/bats_accessible_20090429095157.pdf?1241182939). A Technical Guidance note ‘Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines’ had been published by Natural England and was available online. A feasibility study on setting up monitoring of bat interactions with wind turbines had been carried out and it was hoped the results would lead to a larger project being initiated later in 2009.

The **Vincent Wildlife Trust (VWT)** continues to manage 40 reserves in the UK and Ireland for greater and lesser horseshoe bats. These reserves are buildings leased or owned by the Trust and the number of animals in these sites continues to grow. This summer sees the start of a programme of radio-tracking studies at each of the reserves to determine key foraging areas, commuting routes and alternative roosts used by the colonies in the reserves. The Trust is working on a model of meta-population behaviour and dynamics of lesser horseshoe bats, with a pilot study in mid-Wales.

In September 2008, the Trust published *The Lesser Horseshoe Bat Conservation Handbook*. To complement this publication we have run a series of training workshops for staff of SNCOs, and NGOs.

We are also undertaking a study of possible aggressive interactions between greater and lesser horseshoe bats as the range of the former is expanding and apparently displacing lesser horseshoe bats from its maternity roosts.

In addition to the horseshoe bat sites the Trust leases one building for Bechstein’s bats - the only maternity roost in a building known from the UK, this colony is also subject to a radio-tracking study this summer. The Trust continues survey work on this species using the acoustic lure.

Our work on barbastelles is focused on bat box schemes and bat detector surveys.

Work is underway this year to investigate the roosting ecology and resource partitioning of sympatric Grey and Brown long-eared bats.

**University of Bristol:** Collaborative DNA studies of greater horseshoe bats between Professor Gareth Jones and Dr Roger Ransome of Bristol, and Dr Stephen Rossiter of Queen Mary, University of London continue. We are pleased to be able to report Stephen has been successful in obtaining a grant for a new PhD studentship, with the help of commercial sponsorship from Bat Pro Limited (Roger's environmental company). The outstanding DNA samples of all Woodchester Mansion bats present in 1993, and all babies born since then, will now be able to be processed. With Roger's ecological dataset of the colony, the DNA results showing relatedness between individual bats will allow many new aspects of the lives of these bats to be revealed.

Roger Ransome has continued his 50 year project to collect summer and winter data from the bats at Woodchester Mansion and the surrounding disused mines that are used as hibernacula. He has been greatly helped by many enthusiastic and dedicated younger volunteers.

Woodchester Mansion has increased its use as a key UK education centre for bats, with many public events during the summer months. Two new large high-definition monitors were bought with funds raised by Andy Fryer, Mansion caretaker, through his annual Halloween party. Public viewing of the summer behaviour of greater and lesser horseshoe bats is now much enhanced.

We are hoping to further develop Woodchester Mansion as an education, training and research centre, not only for the UK, but also for other European countries. We are discussing the provision of residential and other accommodation with Woodchester Mansion Trust, and exploring how funding for these aims might be achieved.

**Armenia:** For the last eight months, starting from the submission of our report in August, 2008 and the current one - in May, 2009, the team continued research on the identification of the species composition of bats, as well as the study of their habitats, ecology and lifestyle in the Republic of Armenia (RA) and Nagorno-Karabakh (RNK).

The scientific group under the supervision of Professor Eduard Yavruyan, in the reporting period carried out the following:

1. To establish and record the habitat of *Myotis daubentonii* - a species new to the fauna of Armenia;

2. To reveal new roosts of *Rhinolophus blasii*, *R euryale*, *Plecotus macrobularis*, *Miniopterus schreibersii*, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* and *P kuhlii*;
3. To accrue data on ecology (activity, food analysis from stomach contents of bats found dead and parasites) of *Myotis bechsteinii*, *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*;
4. To gain new data and analyze the results regarding flora composition, mycology, geology, microclimate and fauna of the caves encountered in Tavoush and Syunik regions;
5. To complete the maps and database of the bats registered in Armenia and Artsakh (RNK);
6. To complete and publish “Bats Conservation Action Plan for Armenia”.

In the reporting period, 4 articles were published, and we participated in 2 conferences with regard to typing theses.

One PhD thesis devoted to “Ecology and anatomical-morphological particularities of some Mammals of Armenia and NKR” is being prepared for defense.

The scientific group of The Armenian Nature Protectors Union NGO, in cooperation with employees and students from Yerevan State University and The Slavonic University and with the assistance of The Ministry of Nature Protection of RA are in conflict with informal organizations who try to re-equip “Magela” cave (that was closed with a metal railing by ourselves) under museum and start there archeological excavations. Similar actions are going on in "Ptichiya" cave.

We keep on working with our Polish and Czech colleagues (Dr. Bogdanowicz, Dr. Turleiski and Dr. Frinta).

The question of Armenia joining EUROBATS is passed from The Ministry of Nature Protection to The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Armenia.

The updated table of bat species encountered in RA and RNK for 2009 is given in full text of National Report.

Report was prepared on the basis of researches carried out by the Armenian Nature Protectors Union NGO, Department of Zoology of Yerevan State University, Biological Faculty of Slavonic State University (RAU) and Medico-Biological Faculty of Yerevan State University.

After joining the EU, bats of **Cyprus** are protected under national laws (since 2003) and European directives (since 2004).

Research in Cyprus is improving. The University of Cyprus is doing research on the biology, ecology and conservation of the Egyptian fruit bat. The majority of related publications originate from researchers from abroad, where many Cyprus bat specimens are found in different Natural History Museums. In recent years there had been efforts to study the bat fauna of Cyprus and to increase public awareness.

There are two NGO's working on bats in Cyprus. ARC/Kivotos is dealing with public awareness and the Cyprus Wildlife Society is running a project in cooperation with the Natural History Museum of Crete –“Investigating and mapping diversity and abundance of small mammals in Natura 2000 sites”.

The Environment Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment is the responsible authority for granting permits for research on fauna species of Cyprus, according to the Law No. 153(I)/2003, for the Protection and Management of Nature and Wildlife.

Also, the Environment Service, in close cooperation with the Forestry Department, of the same Ministry, is working towards bat research, monitoring of roosts and species, conservation as well as public awareness, under the National and European Legislation and Directives.

This is the first time that Cyprus is represented at a EUROBATs meeting and the fact that this meeting is taking place in Cyprus is a great honour and gives us hope in achieving our common target.

In **Greece**, 33 bat species can be found, some of them have been reported for first time the recent years (after 2000). The most well studied areas, in terms of species presence, location of roosts and ecology are Evros Prefecture (NE Greece) and the island of Crete, due to the academic research that has taken place there. Most of the data for the rest of the country comes from studies made from foreign researchers, sometimes without appropriate permissions. At the present moment two academic researchers and the Hellenic Institute of Speleological Research are studying the bat fauna of Greece. Furthermore, there are several caving groups all around the country, but so far there has been no systematic effort for bat-related data collection. All wild animal species are protected by Greek legislation, but natural caves are under the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture. Despite the protected status of bats, excavations in caves and improper fencing, organized by the Archaeological Services, have resulted in the destruction or deterioration of important

bat roosts. Other justified threats to the bats of Greece are tourist exploitation of caves, closure of mines and caves, deliberate killings and vandalisms and fires.

In 2008 and 2009 Greece responded to EUROBATS' call for providing information on the roosts of 3 priority species, as well as on the impact of wind turbines and road constructions to bats. An updated version of Red Data Book of the Endangered Animal species of Greece is under preparation and will be available at the end of 2009.

**Israel** has a rich bat biodiversity relative to its size. Currently there are 33 known species of bats, of them 1 species belongs to the family *Pteropidae* (Old world fruit bats) the Egyptian Fruit-bat (*Rousettus aegyptiacus*). Currently all bats are protected by law excluding *Rousettus*.

In 2002 the IUCN red list was created and published for the mammals of Israel (both in Hebrew and English).

There is a continuous long term bat count programme held and organized by the mammalian centre of the SPNI (Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel) with the help of NPA (Nature Protection Authority). Six main roosts within the Mediterranean region are being counted once a year.

Two long term echolocation monitoring stations are currently being built, one in Jerusalem and the other at an oasis on the coast of the Dead-sea ("Ein Feshcha").

This is the third year of a "bunker improvement" project aiming at making the deserted army bunkers along the Jordan river more suitable for bats. Currently there are 8 species known to use these artificial roosts, some in large numbers.

Bat boxes have been built at 5 sites around the country and are being monitored.

Every year bat people give several talks to the public on bat biology and conservation.

A new web site on the bats of Israel (in Hebrew) is on line this year with information about bats and offering bat detectors.

For properly conserving the bats (especially within the rift valley area) we must have regional cooperation between countries, something that is very hard due to the current political situation. We are hoping that EUROBATS will be able to assist in coordinating this important requirement for successful bat conservation in the Middle East.

Although **Jordan** is a small country, the bat fauna is diverse, with 24 species representing eight families that constitutes of about 31% of the total known mammalian species in Jordan.

Jordan is situated at a crossroad between three continents and has diverse biogeographical regions (Mediterranean, Saharo-Arabian, Irano-Turanian, and Afro-tropical); thus, the list of species reported is probably an underestimate of the actual number of potential records.

Current Research on the Bats of Jordan:

1. Habitat selection of bats in forested areas of Jordan.
2. Survey for other possible bats that may occur in Jordan.
3. Identification of bat important areas

Activities on Public Awareness on the Bats of Jordan:

Through a modest fund from Bat Conservation International, a workshop was held in Ajlune Nature Reserve to increase awareness among field researchers and wildlife biologists in Jordan. The workshop identified the biodiversity of the bat fauna of Jordan and major threats that affect their populations.

Research Needed on the Bats of Jordan

1. Identify threats that affect the bat fauna of Jordan
2. Produce a field guide for the bats of Jordan and the surrounding countries. Such publication will help field biologist to identify bats and increase their understanding on the bats of the region.
3. Training of wildlife biologist on the use of bat detectors and analysis of recordings.
4. Cooperate with scientists within the range of distribution of particular species towards understanding their phylogeny and relationships.
5. Awareness programmes among schoolchildren and wildlife biologists in Jordan.

**Russia** mentioned serious threats for bat populations related with development of infrastructure and sport facilities for Winter Olympic Games-2014 in Sochi. Planning and construction of these objects is ongoing without proper environmental impact assessment studies and mitigation activities. As a result, several significant bat sites could be affected or destroyed. The Russian delegate asked the Secretariat for assistance to solve this problem.

Since the presence of the *Myotis alcathoe* in **Serbia** has been confirmed during the period covered by this report, the Serbian bat fauna has reached 30 species. This discovery, as well as some other taxonomic insights (mostly concerning *Plecotus*, *Pipistrellus*, and the *Myotis mystacinus* group), are just preliminary results of recent and on-going researches, including study of museum specimens and data and samples provided by targeted field research, that have been systematically investigated by means of both classic taxonomic and genetic analyses. Intensive genetics analyses have started last year as an excellent co-operation with Dr. Javier Juste from the Department of Evolutionary Biology of Estacion Biologica Donana (CSIC), Seville, Spain, has been established.

The project “Distribution of bats infected with EBLV in Serbia” has been completed, and none of the individuals checked were positive.

Although Serbia has ratified the CMS as well as the Bern Convention during the period covered by the previous report, EUROBATs has not been ratified yet. Good news is that the new Law on Protection of Nature, fully harmonized with ratified international conventions and EU standards, together with eight other environmental laws, has been put on the parliamentary agenda and is expected to be passed in the next weeks; a new directive on protection of animal species, under that law, is being prepared by reliable ministry and scientific community together, and it should, hopefully, follow soon.

European Bat Night was organised by WCS Mustela and Natural History Museum (EBN), more modestly than in previous years, since it took place only in Belgrade, due to a lack of resources.

Surveillance of the most important bat roosts, bat ringing, training of bat workers, as well as good cooperation with countries from the region have been carried out as usual.

**Switzerland:** The study and protection of bats, with government support, started 25 years ago and involves a national Network, a National Action Plan with protection, research and communication/education activities.

The Swiss Network, “Swiss Centre for study and protection of Bats” comprises two Centres of coordination (Western part of the Country: Geneva; Eastern part of the Country: Zurich), 23 “Correspondants regionaux” in each canton, and more than 300 free-workers, biologists or naturalists working in every part of the country. More than 8,000 people are “friends” of this project.

Every year, we organise the “European Bat Night” with success.

Main projects are:

- Monitoring of rare species
- Wind Turbines and Bat Populations
- New Red List of Switzerland
- Bats and rabies
- Consolidation of the big international Bat Library in Natural History Museum Geneva
- Active collaboration and work with adjacent countries: Italy, France, Germany, Liechtenstein.

Twenty three species of bats have been reported from **Syria**. Families Pteropodidae, Emballonuridae, Hipposideridae, and Molossidae are represented by a single species for each family; *Rousettus aegyptiacus*, *Taphozous nudiventris*, *Asellia tridens*, and *Tadarida teniotis* respectively. Family Rhinolophidae is represented by three species; *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, and *Rhinolophus euryale*. The family Vespertilionidae is represented by five genera (*Eptesicus*, *Myotis*, *Pipistrellus*, *Otonycteris*, and *Miniopterus*) and nine species; *Eptesicus bottae*, *Eptesicus serotinus*, *Myotis myotis*, *Myotis blythii*, *Myotis emarginatus*, *Myotis capaccinii*, *Pipistrellus kuhlii*, *Otonycteris hemprichii*, and *Miniopterus schreibersii* respectively.

Research needed on the bats of Syria:

1. Identify Bat Important Areas in Syria: through our initial studies, we were able to identify few sites that harbours large colonies of bats along the Orontis River Valley. More studies are needed to identify large populations along the Euphrates.
2. Training of wildlife biologist on the use of bat detectors and analyze recordings.
3. Cooperate with scientists within the range of distribution of particular species towards understanding their phylogeny and relationships.
4. Awareness programmes among schoolchildren and wildlife biologists in Syria.
5. Identify threats that affect the bat fauna of Syria.

The delegate reported further on relevant references about the bats of Syria.

As a positive development, all the bats in **Turkey** are currently under protection by the Ministry of Environment. One of the impacts of this is the necessity of permits for doing any kind of research with bats in Turkey. Also conservation projects have been initiated in 2009, with EU support. Unfortunately there are no long-term bat monitoring programmes in Turkey. This is partially related to the lack of any NGOs that focus on bats. Also the main line of scientific research involves a focus on taxonomy and

genetics, and almost no conservation emphasis exists in research. In addition, although the species are under protection, an actual conservation status assessment (e.g. in terms of IUCN Red List categories) does not exist at a national level. Future work should include the initiation of long-term monitoring of populations, at least at regional levels. Caves in Turkish Thrace can be a good starting point for this purpose. For broadening the base of bat related monitoring, it might be beneficial to involve caving societies in bat research. It will also be essential to make an initial assessment of the conservation status of bats in Turkey, as a starting point for a national Red Data List on bats.

**IUCN/SSC Bat Specialist Group:** The IUCN published an Old World Fruit Bat Action Plan in 1992. This action plan is now the subject of a much-needed revision being co-ordinated by Tammy Mildenstein of the University of Montana, USA. The new action plan will be a web-based document, so that it can be updated more easily. The outcome of Thursday's workshop will provide some relevant information for *Rousettus aegyptiacus*.

## **6. Secretariat report**

The Executive Secretary referred to the written report and only commented orally on the following issues:

- *Staff changes in the Secretariat:*

He informed the Advisory Committee that the former staff member Ms. Ayhan Polat had taken up a full-time post as of January 2009 in the Secretariat of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and that of end of February Ms. Kate Horn had been recruited to replace her. The Committee requested the Executive Secretary to transmit its sincere gratitude to Ms. Polat for her work in the previous years.

- *Updates to National Implementation Reports:*

The Executive Secretary reported that a significant number of voluntary updates to National Implementation Reports had been received and that the Secretariat prepared an updated Synthesis for this Meeting. He raised the question if such a Synthesis was required for each Advisory Committee Meeting or could be limited to the year when a Meeting of Parties was taking place as it involved a considerable amount of work for preparation. The Committee unanimously agreed to the latter.

The Committee decided to convene an *ad hoc* Working Group (Convenor: Dr. Peter Boye) during the Meeting to review this topic.

- *Agreement membership (recruitment of new Parties)*

The Executive Secretary was optimistic that the accession of San Marino had opened a new round of further accessions to the Agreement until the next Meeting of Parties.

- *Publicity*

He also reported about the continuing and overwhelming success of the EUROBATS Publication Series.

**7. Report from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee (Bonn, 31 March 2009)**

The Chair of the Advisory Committee reported about the StC3 in which he had expressed his concerns to the Chair of the Standing Committee about insufficient communication among the members of the IWGs in between the Meetings of the Advisory Committee. He pointed out that new means of communication should be identified to facilitate the intersessional work, e.g. tele- and videoconference systems.

The Executive Secretary added that the StC3 was overall very successful, recognising the stable financial situation of the budget. Furthermore, the Standing Committee had given recommendations for the refinement of the EPI framework that would be fed into the deliberations of the Advisory Committee on this topic. The written report of the StC3 was to be circulated in due course.

**8. Progress and future operation of the EUROBATS Projects Initiative (EPI) (Doc.EUROBATS.AC14.5)**

The Executive Secretary reported that EPI has had a very successful start after its launch in August 2008 and had attracted both a significant number of project proposals as well as additional voluntary contributions for its operation. However, first lessons learnt and comments received from donor countries clearly showed the need for further refinement of its framework. Also the Standing Committee had provided recommendations in this regard and released 15,000 EUR from savings to be used for EPI projects. An *ad hoc* working group convened by Peter Lina was established and would take into account all comments received.

**9. Reports from Intersessional Working Groups:**

**a) Transboundary Programme – Habitats: Data Compilation**

The Convenor, Tony Mitchell-Jones, proposed to meet during the Meeting to discuss the future work.

**b) Producing Guidelines on Bat Monitoring Methods to Assess Population Trends at Different Levels. Adoption of the final draft Guidelines**

The Convenor, Jessa Battersby, referred to written report (Doc.AC14.7). She invited participants to address her directly only if they had substantive comments. The adoption of the guidelines as well as the decision on the best way to publish them was postponed to the last day of the Meeting.

**c) Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management. Presentation of leaflet „Bats and Forestry“**

The Convenor, Tony Mitchell-Jones, presented the preliminary version of the leaflet on “Bats and Forests” which was appreciated by the Committee. The working group would meet during the Meeting for the final remarks on the leaflet.

The Executive Secretary added that the present leaflet gave general recommendations and encouraged all countries to use this as basis for leaflets in their own language and adapted to the specific needs of each country. Luxembourg raised the question if a translation into the other main languages (French and German) was planned. The Secretariat explained that this could be done if the countries concerned would provide translations.

The Executive Secretary informed that an earmarked voluntary contribution from Germany had been received to print relevant EUROBATS publications also in Russian versions. Ukraine offered to provide a translation of the Forestry leaflet into Russian.

**d) Bat Migration**

The Convenor, Dino Scaravelli, suggested that the IWG would meet during the Meeting.

**e) Autecological Studies for Priority Species**

The Convenor, Stéphane Aulagnier, pointed out that answers to the circulated questionnaire were still missing from a quite large set of countries and that he would highly appreciate to fill the larger gaps. The IWG would convene again during the Meeting.

**f) Protection of Overground Roosts**

The Convenor, Ferdia Marnell, reported that the English version of the Guidelines for the protection of overground roosts for bats was finished. The Secretariat explained that the time of publication depended on when French and German translations would be available.

**g) Impact on Bat Population of Use of Anti-parasitic Drugs for Livestock**

The Convenor, Tony Hutson, suggested having a meeting on the next day.

**h) Wind Turbines and Bat Populations**

The Convenor, Luisa Rodrigues, drew attention to the written report (Doc.AC14.9.Rev.1) but pointed out that there was still work to be done. She proposed to meet during the Meeting.

**i) Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes**

The Convenor, Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen, reported that some new species accounts texts had been received since the last AC Meeting; however, the work should continue during this Meeting.

**j) Bats as Indicators**

The Convenor, Karen Haysom, suggested that the IWG should have further discussions on the following day.

**k) Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats**

The Convenor, Nathalie Lacour, informed the Meeting about the evaluation of the responses to the circulated questionnaire and presented a draft written report that could be circulated after revision. She proposed to meet during the Meeting.

**l) Light Pollution**

The Convenor, Ludo Holsbeek, was not able to attend the Meeting. Dino Scaravelli acted as convenor during the Meeting. The IWG would convene during the Meeting.

**m) 2011 – Year of the Bat**

One of the Convenors, Oliver Schall, reported about the ideas for the campaign. Also this IWG would have a meeting on the following day.

**10. Guidelines on appropriate research and field work practices**

The Executive Secretary referred to Doc.EUROBATS.AC14.6 and reported that after consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair as well as other experts a need for action on this topic had been identified. An *ad hoc* working group convened by Tony Hutson was set up.

**11. Evaluation and international consultation on the suitability of an expansion of the EUROBATS Agreement area**

The Executive Secretary drew the attention to Doc.EUROBATS.AC14.10 which represented a thorough analysis of the Agreements and other instruments under the

mother convention CMS. The Annex to this document contained very positive remarks about the impact of EUROBATS and recommendations for its future development. An *ad hoc* working group convened by Stéphane Aulagnier was established.

## **12. Progress on Pan-European Monitoring activities and the establishment of “BatLife Europe”**

Amy Coyte (BCT) gave a presentation on progress achieved and the intention to apply for EU Life+ funding. An *ad hoc* working group convened by Amy Coyte was set up.

## **13. White Nose Syndrome: Monitoring requirements and potential action in the Agreement area**

The Executive Secretary reported about a workshop on the White-Nose Syndrome that had taken place back to back with the first International Symposium on Bat Migration (Berlin, January 2009). This workshop had identified the need to monitor the occurrence and effects of WNS in Europe. An *ad hoc* working group convened by Paul Racey emerged from the subsequent discussion.

## **14. Reports from working groups convened during the Meeting**

### **Transboundary Programme – Habitats: data compilation**

Present: Tony Mitchell-Jones (Convenor, United Kingdom), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal).

The Convenor referred to the completion of the site list and the publication of the conservation and management booklet. Unresolved issues were the publication of the list of important underground sites and the need to review the list of sites in due course. It was agreed that, in cooperation with the Secretariat, the Convenor would seek the agreement of Parties and Range States to publish the names of sites and would also draft a resolution for the next MoP regarding a revision of the list.

### **IWG on 2011 – Year of the Bat**

Participants (the permanent members are underlined): Nathalie Lacour (France, Convenor), Oliver Schall (Germany, Convenor), May Abido (Syria), Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Amy Coyte (BCT, United Kingdom), Jasja Dekker (VZZ), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM), Edmeé Engel (Luxembourg), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Branko Mićevski (FYR Macedonia), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Maria Nagornii (Moldova), Roger Ransome (United Kingdom), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

The main focus of the international Year of the Bat will be stimulating the coexistence of humans and bats. So the focus will be bats in houses and gardens and educating children.

The group recommended that a secondary focus should be on professionals at national and local governments to tell them about the EUROBATS Agreement.

It was decided in a previous AC Meeting that the following tools can be used to gain publicity: posters, brochure and EUROBATS events.

The group further recommended that posters and brochures are made available in English, German, French and Russian, and that they are made available digitally for translation and printing.

The group also recommended that publicity material developed by individual Parties should be shared through the EUROBATS website.

There will be international focal events. National events could be based on biology of bats (emergence, young, swarming and hibernation).

A Google group will be opened to share publicity material, plans and agendas on national and international events (Task: Jasja Dekker, Dutch Mammal Society).

Focal events during the Year of the Bat can be used as extra tools:

- MoP, Prague, Czech Republic, September 2010, which can be the launch for the Year of the Bat;
- Spring event (emergence of bats) and the AC Meeting in 2011 which could be held in Great Britain or France,
- 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EUROBATS: December 2011 in Germany. The Standing Committee Meeting could also be part of the event of Year of the Bat.

The working group proposed that the Secretariat contacts the CMS Secretariat to organise the events of the Year of the Bat in all places where CMS was represented.

National events could be organised like national bat nights, special excursions, dawn survey looking for roosts, a competition for designing a sticker or poster.

The group recommended that national activities for European Bat Night are compiled and shared to be an inspiration to all.

A brainstorming session on an anchor celebrity supporting the Year of the Bat was discussed. Prince Charles emerged, as did Rowan Atkinson and Carla Bruni. National celebrities should be approached by Parties and other celebrities could be proposed.

It would be good to develop or use an existing internet portal (such as Megalab for snails) where children can enter observations of the first bats they see and can see where else in Europe bats are spotted. It may be possible to enter into existing projects such as “natuurkalender.nl”, the Dutch observation portal, or the English phenology portal.

The event of the launch of the YoB2011 must be planned. The group suggested that this was to be first discussed between the Secretariat and the Czech administration.

Information on planned events and activities related to the YoB should be mentioned by the Parties and Non-Party Range States in the next National Reports.

### ***Ad hoc* WG on Code of Ethics**

Participants (the permanent members are underlined): Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom, Convenor), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Peter Boye (Germany), Martin Celuch (Slovakia), Elena Erotokritou (Cyprus), Evangelis Evangelos (Cyprus), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Pangiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (Cyprus), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Peter Lina (Netherlands), Radek Lucan (Czech Republic), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Haris Nicolaou (Cyprus), Vasil Popov (Bulgaria), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Paul Racey (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (VWT, United Kingdom), Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia).

Introduction: A new IWG was formed to consider the need for a Code of Ethics for the taking of specimen from the wild and the subsequent depositing of such specimen in appropriate institutions, with particular reference to international research. This Code of Ethics would give clear guidelines to which scientists within the EUROBATS Agreement area commit themselves (Doc.EUROBATS.AC14.6). The code would also seek to facilitate contact between proposed researchers and appropriate regulatory authorities in host countries.

Discussion: The Meeting noted EUROBATS Resolution 4.6. (Guidelines for the issue of permits for the capture and study of captured wild bats) and its annex, existing codes from museums, scientific journals and field techniques publications.

The group considered that a brief code should be produced as an amendment to Resolution 4.6 and would note the need for freedom of appropriate research, but recognise the need to follow legal requirements for a wide range of research activities involving the capture or disturbance of bats, the need for local collaboration where possible/ appropriate, constraints on the taking of voucher specimen and the destination institute for such specimen. The group recognised that there are sometimes difficulties for researchers to locate the appropriate authorities or other contacts. It was therefore agreed that information on appropriate national contacts should be made easily available via the EUROBATS website and that national authorities should be kept aware of the needs of researchers and respond to requests for permissions.

The code would apply to the EUROBATS Agreement area and its adjacent territories. The principles would equally apply to researchers working outside this area.

There were 31 participants, out of which 18 chose to remain permanent members of the newly established ongoing IWG.

#### ***Ad hoc* WG on Pan-European Monitoring**

Permanent members: Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands, Convenor), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), , Edmeé Engel (Luxembourg), Elena Erotokritou (Cyprus), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom), Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Branko Mićevski (FYR Macedonia), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Haris Nikolaou (Cyprus), Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Rob Raynor (United Kingdom), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Per-Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Triinu Torv (Estonia).

Present for the AC: May Abido (Syria), Jessa Battersby (United Kingdom), Peter Boye (Germany), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Radek Lucan (Czech Republic), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Vasil Popov (Bulgaria), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Paul Racey (United Kingdom), Roger Ransome (United Kingdom), Lyndon Taylor (Cyprus).

The *ad hoc* WG was transformed into an ongoing IWG and agreed that Pan-European Monitoring continues to be a priority area to develop through EUROBATS monitoring at a Pan-European level is critical to developing bats as indicators of Biodiversity. The Pan-European Monitoring Project for Underground Sites (PEMBUS) was a first stage.

Funding was required to take forward PEMBUS and the aim was to put a Life+ bid together to secure funding for the first stage of the project. A draft budget was discussed and the principle of the approach agreed. The following countries agreed to discuss with their governments whether a government contribution to the Life+ bid will be possible: Netherlands government + VZZ, SFPEM, UK government + BCT, Czech Republic + NGO, German government + NABU, Finnish government + NGO, Luxembourg government, Swiss government (non EU), Slovenian government + NGO, Batlife Austria, Polish Government + NGO, Irish Government, Portuguese government, and Estonian government.

The following countries agreed that they would like to participate in the PEMBUS when the project was up and running. Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, FYR Macedonia, Greece, Norway, Serbia and Slovakia. Those countries which were not already listed in the feasibility report would be added. The feasibility report would be circulated to all attending this meeting.

There was concern from Non-EU countries that they would fall outside of the project due to the Life funding criteria. The group reassured the participants that the long-term aim was to include all countries wishing to participate.

BCT would produce a briefing paper for the countries which have agreed to discuss PEMBUS with their governments – circulated by the end of May.

Government responses to be reported to BCT by end of July.

The Life+ bid deadline is middle of September 2009.

Batlife website: [www.batlife-europe.info](http://www.batlife-europe.info)

### ***Ad hoc* WG on EUROBATS Projects Initiative**

Members (permanent ones are underlined, bold = sub-committee members): **Peter Lina (Netherlands, Convenor)**, **Zuhair Amr (Jordan)**, **Stéphane Aulagnier (France)**, **Peter Boye (Germany)**, **Daniela Hamidović (Croatia)**, **Nathalie Lacour (France)**, **Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom)**, Ioseb Natradze (Georgia), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia).

An *ad hoc* WG was convened. Its terms of reference were to prepare criteria to prioritise project proposals for funding either by voluntary contributions or directly through the EUROBATS budget (accrued interest income and refund of UNEP Programme Support Costs generated by voluntary contributions). A sub-committee was created.

The group considered a number of issues:

Scope: It was agreed that projects in Parties and Range States would be eligible for funding. The list of Range States would be provided via the IWG on Geographical Scope.

Objectives: Projects should contribute to the objectives of EUROBATS. This might include, for example, projects on EUROBATS priority species and action plan species, projects to implement Resolutions, projects to improve knowledge of the status of species within the EUROBATS area.

Other criteria: Cooperative projects would be prioritised, as would projects on migratory species.

A standard application form should be developed to allow applicants to show how their proposal would meet the criteria set out above. This would assist the sub-committee in prioritising projects.

After prioritisation, the list of projects would be submitted to Parties for voluntary contributions; Focal Points from the applicant's country would also be informed of the proposals.

It was agreed that the sub-committee should consist of a small number of members (up to 6). The membership should be reviewed at the MoP, where a decision about the length of time for which members would serve would be sought. The current members are underlined above.

The role of the Secretariat in assisting in the operation of the sub-committee was discussed. This will be subject to further discussion at the MoP.

The ad hoc WG was transformed into an ongoing IWG.

### **IWG on Wind Turbines and Bat Populations**

Members (permanent ones are underlined): Luísa Rodrigues (Portugal, Convenor), Lothar Bach (Germany), Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Amy Coyte (BCT, United Kingdom), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Anna-Nele Herdina (Austria), Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom), Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Kaja Lotman (Estonia), Lauri Lutsar (Estonian Fund for Nature, Estonia), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Branko Mićevski (FYR Macedonia), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Maria Nagornii (Moldova), Marie

Nedinge (Sweden), Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Elvana Ramaj (Albania), Roger Ransome (United Kingdom), Rob Raynor (United Kingdom), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Triinu Torv (Estonia).

Several sub-groups were created:

<b>Sub-group</b>	<b>Coordinator (c) and members</b>
1) preparation of an Excel file of references	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
2) compilation of data on bat mortality per country	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (c) Lothar Bach
3) evaluation/comparison of the 2 questionnaires (2005 & 2009)	Laurent Biraschi (c) Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Lauri Lutsar Jacques Pir Martin Celuch Branko Mičevski Elvana Ramaj Per Ole Syvertsen Helena Jahelkova
4) updating of tables	Christine Harbusch (c) Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
5) mitigation and compensation measures	Luisa Rodrigues (c) Lothar Bach Martin Celuch
6) estimation of mortality rate taking into consideration predation, efficiency and controlled area	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen Martin Celuch Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis
7) impact of mortality rate on populations	Christine Harbusch (c) Lothar Bach Luisa Rodrigues Martin Celuch Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis
8) deterrents	Lothar Bach (c) Luisa Rodrigues
9) table on maximum foraging distances of species	Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage
10) collect national guidelines (including information on feathering/stopping WTs)	Andrzej Kepel (c) Branko Mičevski

There was a need to have translations of some important reports (German ones mainly).

The group has decided not to revise the guidelines right now but produce a report for the next MoP.

### **IWG on Bats as Indicators**

Members (permanent ones are underlined): Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom, Convenor), May Abido (Syria), Jessamy Battersby (United Kingdom), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Branko

Karapandza (Serbia), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Vasil Popov (Bulgaria), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Henry Schofield (VWT, United Kingdom), Lyndon Taylor (Terra Cypria, Cyprus), Asaf Tsoar (Israel).

*Background:*

This IWG was established in AC11, following a request to the secretariat to contribute information to SEBI 2010. (At that time SEBI2010 was seeking to identify which other taxa had the potential to be developed as indicators in order to broaden the suite of species and habitats represented). The IWG was established to consider how bats could be developed as biodiversity indicators for initiatives such as SEBI 2010. Since AC11 the IWG has functioned mainly as an information sharing platform. For example, to allow those who wish to develop country level indicators the opportunity to benefit from the experience of the wider group.

Many members of the group contributed information to a 2008 BCT report to EEA demonstrating the rationale for using bats as indicators and proposing a methodology. That report concluded that current European surveillance has the potential to produce a pan European indicator of trends in bat populations, and that the next step would be an international workshop to agree the methodology etc. This step was approved by the IWG at AC13.

*Discussion:*

It was noted that after 2010, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) would need to set new targets for biodiversity conservation and there would consequently be a new need for indicators that measure progress towards these goals. There was an opportunity for EUROBATS to raise the profile of bats as potential indicator species, and potentially to ensure that bats contribute to/ feature among the new CBD indicators. The workgroup would start working towards a resolution on bats as indicators to be submitted to the next MoP.

The IWG discussed two roads to take:

- Indicators of involvement of public and governments in conservation of bats and nature conservation in general;
- Bats as indicators of biodiversity.

The former could be distilled, or collected additionally to the National Reports, by extracting precise information such as:

- Number of Protected areas appointed for bats;
- Number of species on the most recent red lists of endangered species, etc.;

- Number of events organized on the international bat night, and the number of people participating (engagement).

*Actions:*

Karen Haysom to circulate details of JONES *et al.* 2009 *Carpe Noctem* to IWG members (Endangered Species Research open access, available online).

Karen Haysom and Branko Karapandza to liaise with convenor of *ad hoc* group on synthesis of national reports over the potential of national reports to provide materials for an indicator and for an indicator to be developed which provided a visual summary of synthesis information.

Karen Haysom, Branko Karapandza and Jasja Dekker to work on a draft form to be attached to national report which would gain standardized information suitable for a simple EUROBATS indicator (e.g. 10-12 questions) before next AC.

Furthermore the group decided to work towards a draft resolution for MoP6 as appropriate.

### **IWG on Bat Conservation and Sustainable Forest Management**

Present: Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom, Convenor), May Abido (Syria), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Martin Celuch (Slovak Republic), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Maria Nagornii (Moldova), Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Rob Raynor (United Kingdom).

The Convenor requested comments on the draft forestry leaflet that had been circulated to participants. A small change to recognise that the leaflet was aimed at the management of Microchiroptera would be included and one or two other minor changes were proposed, otherwise, the leaflet was welcomed by members. Some questions were raised about the management of the translation to different languages. The Convenor discussed this with the Secretariat and provided some guidance on which parts should be kept unchanged and which parts can be adapted to local circumstances (see Annex 3). The future operation of the Forestry IWG was discussed and it was proposed that some follow-up to check on the usefulness of the leaflet should be carried out in due course. Otherwise, the views of the MoP should be sought on the future work of the IWG.

## **IWG on Autecological Studies for Priority Species**

Participants (permanent ones are underlined): Stéphane Aulagnier (France, Convenor), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Anna Nele Herdina (Austria), Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Vasil Popov (Bulgaria), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Roger Ransome (United Kingdom), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia).

In accordance with Resolution 4.12, the current work being carried out on autecological studies of the Priority List of species (*Rhinolophus euryale*, *Myotis capaccinii* and *Miniopterus schreibersii*) should be updated by the Advisory Committee and should be made public.

### *1. Questionnaire on roost choice*

Very few more expected answers were received by the EUROBATS Secretariat. Participants of the IWG who did not fill up and send back the questionnaire (Austria, Bulgaria, San Marino, Serbia) were urged to do this by the coming weeks. All of them were invited to help to obtain further answers through their contacts in the missing countries: Albania, Armenia, Cyprus, Malta, Spain, Switzerland and Turkey. A report of the analysis of the questionnaires would be drafted for the next AC meeting. The final format would then be decided.

### *2. References of papers and reports dealing with autecological studies*

Except papers on *Miniopterus schreibersii* asked for the IWG on the critical feeding areas range states and kindly provided by Primož Presetnik, no paper or reference was received by the Convenor of the IWG. It was decided to circulate a draft list of published studies (in any language) in order to obtain additional information from each member of the group.

### *3. Foraging habitats and management guidelines*

The members of the group were recalled that it had been agreed at the previous AC Meeting that a new EUROBATS publication should be prepared on this topic, based upon the booklet published by the French Mammal Society (Société Française pour l'Etude et la Protection des Mammifères) during the Life Nature Project on the conservation of the three priority species. The text would be translated by the Convenor, then it would be expanded with the results from Spanish, Italian, Croatian and Greek studies, to take into account differences in bat behaviour across their range.

## **IWG on Impact of Roads and Other Traffic Infrastructures on Bats**

Present (permanent members are underlined): Nathalie Lacour (France, Convenor), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Jean Matthews (United Kingdom), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Luisa Rodrigues (Portugal), Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway).

Additional permanent members: Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Branko Karapanza (Serbia), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino).

Preliminary results of the questionnaire were examined and discussed. A summary of these would be prepared for AC15. Countries which had not yet replied to the questionnaire were encouraged to do so as soon as possible. However, it was clear already that roadways had a significant impact on bats and that some countries were dealing with this threat more proactively than others.

This working group would draft a resolution for AC15. The Resolution would:

- Encourage Parties and Non-Party Range States to take bats into account during the planning stage of infrastructure projects;
- Encourage Parties and Non-Party Range States to promote further research into the impact of new and existing roads on bats and into the effectiveness of mitigating measures;
- Ask the AC to develop and publish an advisory leaflet on minimising the impact of infrastructure projects on bats, along the lines of the Bats and Forestry leaflet.

The group hoped to discuss and finalise this Resolution further at AC15 with a view to submitting it to the MoP in 2010. The remaining work to be done by the IWG was evaluated and responsibilities were allocated.

## **IWG on Light Pollution**

Present (permanent members are underlined): Dino Scaravelli (San Marino, Acting Convenor), Laurent Biraschi (Luxembourg), Jasja Dekker (Netherlands), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Edmée Engel (Luxembourg), Panagiotis Georgiakakis (Greece), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Karen Haysom (UK), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Rob Raynor (United Kingdom), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia).

The Acting Convenor brought the apologies of the Convenor Ludo Holsbeek who could not be present.

Light pollution was an accepted problematic issue for wildlife species as it might influence species through habitat disturbance and changing of behaviour and in particular for bats as:

- (In)direct effects on maternity colonies, hibernation sites and roosts;
- Effects on commuting e.g. barrier function of lit roads and fragmentation of the night landscape;
- Interaction with feeding activity, including prey distribution and intra-bat species competition.

The group discussed if there was new literature regarding effects on bats and it was agreed to send any news to the Convenor to be added to the existing literature list. Also pictures of examples and/or specific facts would be collected.

The United Kingdom informed about an experiment that was being undertaken in Bristol about the influence of light on hedgerows use by bats that seemed to have effects on Rhinolophids and small *Myotis*, as well as a new study being undertaken in the Netherlands on light type, modality and bat habitat use. BCT was also working on this topic. The group would be in more close contact with those studies in order to obtain information as soon as deliverable.

Reviewed literature also should be used to tabulate the known effect on different species (as an example the *Nyctalus/Pipistrellus* preference and avoidance by small *Myotis*) in order for the knowledge to be used more practically and to emphasize lack of knowledge.

The working group would try to coordinate these efforts with other stakeholders interested in the reduction of light pollution, such as the astronomical and other taxonomical related groups.

The working group also suggested that measures could already be taken in order to avoid direct and diffuse light pollution. In particular, the reduction of the use of “fun” or “sensational” light in the night landscape and a gradual replacement of lamps with high UV-content (e.g. by low pressure sodium street lamps with appropriate design) limit light pollution.

The results of the actions here proposed would be collected and presented to the next AC Meeting in order to provide a list of priorities on the topics to the next MoP.

### **IWG on Impact on Bat Populations of Use of Anti-parasitic Drugs for Livestock**

Present (permanent ones are underlined): Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom, Convenor), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Peter Lina (Netherlands), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Roger Ransome (University of Bristol, United Kingdom), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino).

The group reviewed the remaining issues that needed to be finalised for the final report. A draft report would be recirculated, and new information incorporated. Depending on the findings, a decision would be made on whether a Resolution is required and what issues that might highlight.

### ***Ad hoc* WG on Synthesis of National Reports**

Members: Peter Boye (Germany, Convenor), Nathalie Lacour (France), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Jessamy Battersby (United Kingdom), Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom).

The working group acknowledged the work the Secretariat had done by providing the Advisory Committee with an updated Synthesis of National Reports (Inf.EUROBATS.AC14.5). However, it seemed to the group that there were not enough occasions for beneficial use of such a synthesis to justify the amount of work connected to its production. Because of the heterogeneity of National Reports, which was principally acceptable, one would refer to the original National Report in most cases of a certain need of information. As a result of the preceded discussion of the IWG on Bats as Indicators a summary of indicator values could replace the current format of the synthesis if appropriate basic data were provided with the National Reports. On the other hand, a review of the results of national and international activities under EUROBATS, the history of the Agreement and the current conservation status of bats in Europe would be welcomed to raise public awareness during the International Year of the Bat 2011, which shall be launched during the 6<sup>th</sup> Session of the Meeting of Parties in Prague in September 2010. After further discussions the *ad hoc* working group recommended the following decisions which were adopted by the plenary of the Advisory Committee:

- There was no need for the Secretariat to produce another updated synthesis of National Reports following the format used before.

- Parties and Range States were requested to include the data which the IWG on Bats as Indicators would identify (during the AC15 meeting at the latest) in their next National Report and outline basic information for the compilation of indicators for certain aspects of the conservation status of bats in Europe.
- The Secretariat was asked to promote the production of an illustrated brochure which reviews the successful conservation work of EUROBATS on the occasion of the launch of the Year of the Bat at MOP6. For this aim a contract should be made with an author who could write a good text for the brochure on the basis on available documents and reviews, and with technical assistance from scientific focal points. Thus the Secretariat was requested to seek through written communication the approval of the Standing Committee for the release of the necessary funds for the contract, design, and printing of the brochure. As it was the case for the publication produced at the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Agreement, the Secretariat was requested to approach UNEP Headquarters regarding the possibility of support. Parties, Non-Party Range States as well as NGOs were invited and encouraged to provide pictures and illustrations already available.

The Meeting decided to transform the *ad hoc* working group into a continuing one called “IWG on Synthesis of EUROBATS Activities”.

### **IWG on Bat Migration**

Present (permanent members are underlined): Dino Scaravelli (San Marino, Convenor), May Abido (Syria), Stéphane Aulagnier (France), Zuhair Amr (Jordan), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Peter Boye (Germany), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Branko Karapandza (Serbia), Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland), Branko Mićevski (FYR Macedonia), Pascal Moeschler (Switzerland), Jasminko Mulaomerović (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Maria Nagornii (Moldova), Primož Presetnik (Slovenia), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Asaf Tsoar (Israel), Davit Yavruyan (Armenia).

The Convenor presented the actual status of the work and pointed to the recent work by HUTTERER *et al.* which summarised the migration information from banding in Europe. Also the Berlin conference in 2009 brought to attention new technologies being implemented and new research undergoing in Europe.

A discussion was held about the role and concept of long-distance migration and the role of ecological migration that is undertaken by species crossing boundaries sometimes beyond the actual geographical borders of the Agreement.

Critical points for future work were underlined:

- Identify long distance migration routes with the use of modern or classical methods, stressing the countries involved to undertake priority studies in these areas;
- Analyse information available from the country in question and also from adjacent countries, and send literature in other languages (with at least title translated into English) to the IWG to improve knowledge of the situation;
- Re-collect information from the old questionnaire and refill when *Miniopterus* should be present in the country as suggested in the previous AC Meeting;
- Put as priority the possibility to identify migration with modern technologies, such as new GPS, satellite or GPRS radiotracking as well as to reconsider appropriate banding in specific projects;
- Consider the use of genetics but also isotope analysis as possible new approaches to studying the movements of bats;

Recognising the fact that there was evidence of possible migration routes only for the Don river and for *P.nathusii* for routes from the Baltic to the Northern sea, along the Rhine river and from Poland to the Adriatic sea, there was an urgent need to determine where the exact flyways were.

Work to be done for the next AC Meeting should reconsider the results of interviews and add new records for *Miniopterus*, consider newly recognised movements as well as new technology and methods. For the next MoP a Draft Resolution would be prepared during the next AC Meeting.

### ***Ad hoc* WG on White-Nose Syndrome**

The following members attended: Paul Racey (University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom, Convenor), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Amy Coyte (BCT, United Kingdom), Andrzej Kepel (Poland), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom), Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Vasil Popov (Bulgaria), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany).

Additional permanent members: Dino Scaravelli (San Marino), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (Cyprus), Lena Godlevska (Ukraine).

The members agreed on the terms of reference: To formulate and promulgate procedures to minimise the risk of transmission of infectious agents between roost sites of bats below and above ground. The group also agreed on the following recommendations:

- Increased vigilance by batworkers;
- The AC took note of the guidelines provided by BCT (Inf.EUROBATS.AC14.21) and invited the Parties and NPRS to make use of them;
- Pan-European surveillance of incidence of WNS initially coordinated by BCT;
- Each country to establish procedure for verifying identity of pathogen (Dr. Gudrun Wibbelt, Berlin, was compiling a list of capable laboratories);
- Disseminate information and guidelines among batworkers and speleologists;
- Each country to plan for worst case scenario.

Italy, Cyprus and the Netherlands were undertaking an information and surveillance project on the presence of WNS in the country.

The *ad hoc* working group was transformed into a continuing IWG.

### **IWG on Conservation and Management of Critical Feeding Areas and Commuting Routes**

Members of the IWG (permanent membership revised in AC14): Eeva-Maria Kyheröinen (Finland, Convenor), Jasja Dekker (VZZ, Netherlands), Marie-Jo Dubourg-Savage (SFEPM, France), Suren Gazaryan (Russian Federation), Christine Harbusch (NABU, Germany), Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom), Ludo Holsbeek (Belgium), Helena Jahelkova (Czech Republic), Ferdia Marnell (Ireland), Tony Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom), Jacques Pir (Luxembourg), Danilo Russo (Italy), Henry Schofield (VWT, United Kingdom), Per Ole Syvertsen (Norway), Eleftherios Hadjisterkotis (Cyprus).

Others present in the meeting of the IWG during AC14: Lena Godlevska (Ukraine), Irina Rakhmatulina (Azerbaijan), Rob Raynor (United Kingdom), Triinu Tõrv (Estonia), Branko Karapandza (Serbia).

### *Aims of the IWG*

Referring to Resolution 4.9, point 4: Foraging habitats; to produce a synthesis of methods used to study the critical feeding areas and commuting routes and to produce guidance for the national guidelines for bat habitat conservation.

### *Meeting in the AC14 session*

The group had a look at the list of species accounts. Most of the texts or draft texts have been submitted to the Convenor. The missing texts were divided to different group members, and in some cases it was agreed on to ask an expert of the species concerned to write the text.

Regarding the guidelines document, a provisional table of contents with notes from previous discussions was circulated to the participants. Responsibilities on writing the chapters were agreed on.

### *Future work*

The Convenor will send the check list of species accounts, all species texts as well as the table of contents with task sharing to the group. The missing species account texts will be written as soon as possible. The first three chapters of the guidelines will be drafted by September after which other parts shall be written. The guidelines document should be ready in good time before the next AC Meeting in order to be able to present it to the Meeting of Parties. A Draft Resolution shall be presented to the next AC Meeting.

### ***Ad hoc WG on expansion of the EUROBATS Agreement area***

Participants: Stéphane Aulagnier (France, Convenor), Rasit Bilgin (Turkey), Peter Boye (Germany), Daniela Hamidović (Croatia), Tony Hutson (IUCN, United Kingdom), Marie Nedinge (Sweden), Dino Scaravelli (San Marino).

The group was requested to discuss the definition of the geographical scope as stated by Resolution 5.11 and considering the document produced for the 9th CMS Conference of the Parties (Doc.EUROBATS.AC14.10). First the Convenor of the group recalled the main paragraphs of the Resolution, then the members of the group expressed freely their concerns. Advantages and disadvantages of an expansion toward the countries of North Africa and some countries of the Middle East were listed.

As the group did not have all the documents relative to the Agreement, it proposed that the Secretariat should suggest the best way to reach the goal of participation by states outside the current boundary of the Agreement without any major change, and providing

that the list of species of the new geographical scope of the Agreement remains the list of European bat species.

The Executive Secretary recalled the history of the discussions on the geographical scope of the Agreement which then led to the second amendment to the Agreement. Through the amendment the Agreement had been adjusted to cover “Populations of European Bats” thus referring to bio geographical boundaries rather than political ones. As already in the original Agreement text, non-European Range States were now even more expressly invited to accede to the Agreement, which however, would remain limited to populations of European bats. He furthermore explained that consequently Resolution 2.5 was no longer reflecting the actual status of the Agreement, both in legal and scientific terms.

The Meeting agreed to recommend to MoP6 to formally adopt the whole Western Palearctic region as Agreement area.

#### **15. Approval of the Guidelines on “Surveillance and Monitoring Methods for European Bats”**

The final draft of the Guidelines on “Surveillance and Monitoring Methods for European Bats” was unanimously approved. It was decided to publish the guidelines as soon as possible on the EUROBATS website and to also print it as a new volume in the Publication Series (in English immediately, other languages as soon as available). After MoP6 the Advisory Committee would review the need for updates as appropriate.

#### **16. Date and venue of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee**

Germany offered to host the AC15 Meeting in 2010 at the United Nations Campus in Bonn. A planned excursion would lead the participants to a beautiful area where the biggest German bat conservation project ever was being conducted in ancient quarries dating back to Roman times and that now are one of the largest known roosting site for bats. The Secretariat recalled that the AC15, taking place in the year of a MoP, would convene in its old format, *i.e.* Standing and Advisory Committees together. At a later stage a decision would need to be made whether four meeting days were required.

#### **17. Any other business**

The Meeting held a moment of silence in memory of Prof. Otto von Helversen who had passed away on 2 March 2009.

The Czech Republic suggested the establishment of a new IWG at AC15 dealing with the handling of bats in field work and the establishment of criteria for the different types of bat research.

Tony Hutson (IUCN / United Kingdom) informed that the Annex to the Agreement potentially would need a number of amendments in view of the species listed. He would be happy to seek opinions from the relevant experts (taxonomists) and to prepare a relating document as well as a draft resolution for MoP6. This was unanimously accepted.

Sweden urged all concerned to prepare the documents for submission to the next AC in due course before the meeting and requested the Secretariat to establish a strict deadline to be followed.

The Vice-Chair recalled that a number of responses from countries to questionnaires of IWGs were still outstanding and requested them to be sent by the end of July.

#### **18. Adoption of the Record of the Meeting**

The Record was adopted by consensus.

#### **19. Close of Meeting**

Peter Boye (Germany) in a short statement commended the representatives of Cyprus for the significant progress achieved in nature and species conservation compared to the early 1980's when he had carried out field work in the country at the beginning of his scientific career.

The Executive Secretary expressed his gratitude to the hosts and thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and excellent results achieved at this meeting.

The Chair expressed his thanks towards the Cypriot hosts and Patricia Radnor for encouraging to hold the Meeting in Cyprus. He also thanked the Executive Secretary, Andreas Streit, and his staff members Christine Boye, Kate Horn and Tine Meyer-Cords for the excellent organisation of the Meeting. Further he thanked the Vice-Chair, Luísa Rodrigues, for her support during the Meeting and the participants for their inspired contribution and energy.

The Meeting was closed at 13:45 hrs.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

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14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

## Updated List of Intersessional Working Groups



Transboundary Programme – Habitats: Data Compilation	Dr. Anthony J. Mitchell-Jones (United Kingdom) * Dr. Zoltán Bihari (Hungary) Dr. Lena Godlevska (Ukraine) Dr. Luísa Rodrigues (Portugal)
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Synthesis of EUROBATS Activities	Dr. Peter Boye (Germany) * Dr. Nathalie Lacour (France) Mr. Branko Karapandza (Republic of Serbia) Dr. Karen Haysom (BCT, United Kingdom)
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## 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Advisory Committee

Tochni / Larnaca, Cyprus, 11 – 13 May 2009

### Guidance for the translation of the EUROBATS leaflet on “Bats and Forestry”



Parties and Range States are encouraged to translate the Forestry leaflet into their own languages, as this will help encourage successful dialogue with the forestry authorities.

As bat species and forest types and practices are different across the EUROBATS area, some changes may be made to some parts of the leaflet. However, the Forestry IWG would like the good practice guidelines to be translated accurately, as these high-level guidelines should apply everywhere. Similarly, the IWG would like the leaflet to maintain a similar layout and appearance in all language versions.

In summary, changes may be made as follows:

Section	Level of changes allowed
About bats Bats and Forestry Protection	Small changes, to reflect the local situation, are permissible.
Good practice guidance for bat-friendly forestry in Europe	Changes to this section should be avoided, as this guidance has been agreed by EUROBATS.
Examples of species	If the featured species do not occur in the country, these examples may be replaced with other tree-dependent bats. The pictures will also need to be changed.

The EUROBATS Secretariat is unable to help with the costs of translation or printing, but will make the following resources available to assist with the production of other language versions.

- Working template for the leaflet in professional file format (Adobe Illustrator)
- Full-sized pdf version of the leaflet (in English)
- Pictures
- EUROBATS logo and UNEP logo

The following restrictions apply to the use of these materials:

1. The EUROBATS and UNEP logos should only be used once the Focal Point has confirmed to the Secretariat that the translation and layout follows the guidance above.
2. Photo credits should be included, as in the printed version.

Please contact the Secretariat to obtain the materials listed above. The Secretariat would be pleased to receive examples of completed leaflets.